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## Assistant SECAF kicks off Civil Air Patrol initiative

by Mike Wallace  
Skywrighter Staff

Craig W. Duehring, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, visited Wright-Patterson Monday to meet with base and Civil Air Patrol (CAP) officials to “kick off” an initiative known as Volunteer Support for the Air Force. A brief explanation was given in CAP building, 1222, in Kittyhawk Center.

CAP Brig. Gen. Amy Courter, national interim commander, described VSAF as “an extension of traditional support” for the Air Force by the local CAP members. Wright-Patterson and Randolph AFBs were selected to be the first bases to test the VSAF initiative,



Craig W. Duehring, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, speaks on Volunteer Support.

one that allows CAP volunteers to fulfill some duties in services, base operations, and others.

Courter said that it “was her privilege to launch another CAP mission,” and that the “57,000 civilian volunteers (in the CAP) support the great men and women who are defending our country and their loved ones at home.”

Courter said that CAP volunteers perform 90 percent of domestic air searches, and last year “participated in 300 missions that saved 105 lives.” She added, “We look forward to serving you.”

Duehring, who became a CAP cadet in 1959 after taking his first plane ride, spoke about the attack on Sept. 11, saying that this “was an attack on all of us.” He said that the Pentagon was besieged with calls asking “What can I do?” and “How can I help?”

Instead of creating a new organization to handle to offers, Duehring and others began looking at the congressionally chartered CAP.

“Col. (Colleen M.) Ryan (Wright-Patterson AFB commander) said, ‘Sign me up,’ and there were similar responses from CAP units,” said Duehring. “Everybody agrees that (VSAF) is a great opportunity to do something that hasn’t been done before, an opportunity for CAP volunteers to serve their country.”

Randy Parker, assistant to the base commander, said, “We’re really excited to kick off this opportunity.



Air Force photos by Christy Webb

Randy Parker, vice director 88th ABW; Maj. Amanda Gentry; Civil Air Patrol Brig. Gen. Amy Courter, national interim commander; Craig W. Duehring, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs; and Col. James E. Miner, commander of the 88th Mission Support Group and liaison to the CAP gathered to announce the Volunteer Support.

Wright-Patterson has a ‘bazillion’ moving parts, and there’ll be many opportunities to harness the energy of the Civil Air Patrol.”

He added, “Col. (James E.) Miner (commander of the 88th Mission Support Group and liaison to the CAP), you’ve got the stick to pull this off.”

CAP Great Lakes regional deputy commander, Col. Chuck Carr, said the VSAF initiative is “short in cer-

tain areas. Volunteers within a 30-mile radius of Wright-Patterson may fill in wherever they can assist.”

Courter presented CAP coins to both Duehring and Parker, and CAP Maj. Amanda Gentry, commander of CAP Group 7, an eight-county area, said that anyone wanting information on the CAP or to volunteer through this initiative, can call 937-239-0297, or visit the website at gp7cmdr@gmail.com.

## Recognition ceremony honors new chief master sergeants

by Mike Wallace  
Skywrighter Staff

Nearly 300 people attended the 20th annual ceremony and dinner Jan. 25 in the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force recognizing those at Wright-Patterson who were promoted to the rank of chief master sergeant.

Twelve noncommissioned officers including Joseph Bovair, Ernest Chapman, Bruce Dickerson, Troy Eden, Donald Erden, Ibrahim Hamdan, Douglas Jones, Melinda Jones, Michael Bonayne, Robert Rudolph, Stanley Skipper, and Douglas Toy, were honored for achieving a rank attained by only one percent of the enlisted force.

The event began with socializing among World War II aircraft, and continued as people entered the Modern Flight Gallery. There, co-emcees, Chief Master Sgts. Tami (retired) and Rob Fuller, directed the new chief selectees and their spouses to walk through a gauntlet of chiefs holding ceremonial sabers to form an archway over them.

The posting of the colors followed, Staff Sgt. Justin Allen sang the National Anthem, and Chief Master Sgt. Carlton Jamison offered the invocation.

After dinner a trio made up of Master Sgt. Shawn Stanley, Tech. Sgt. Cameron Voorhees, and Sgt. Allen from the Air Force Band of Flight’s Systems Go provided musical entertainment.

Guest speaker for the event was Gen. Bruce Carlson, commander of Air Force Materiel Command. He called the ceremony a “great opportu-



Courtesy photo by Kathy Wallace

The new Chief Master Sergeant selectees took their oath Jan. 25 during a ceremony at the National Museum of the United States Air Force.

nity for the Air Force to celebrate,” and told the new chiefs, “We’ve asked a lot from you, and we’ll expect a lot. Thank those by your side, the ones who’ve pushed you, your families and friends.”

He then outlined his three areas of advice for the newly promoted chiefs.

“First, don’t coast; get comfortable with not being comfortable. Set standards in appearance and work ethics, and realize that Airmen will want to know what you think. Reach out to all Airmen, be a friend and confidant. Second, be visible. Practice leadership by walking around. This is important; this face-to-face influence is

worth more than anything on a computer.

Three, be worthy to wear this uniform. Leading this generation is not easy. They’ll ask why, but they give more than we did when we were their age,” said Carlson. “You are now the guardians of our most prized possession, our people.”

After a coin presentation to Carlson, Airmen representing each enlisted rank marched to the stage. As each representative stepped forward, his